

## Order gags Rewald, cloaks data

Can the CIA keep Ronald Rewald quiet?

Rewald, the former Milwaukeean now facing 100 federal charges of fraud, perjury and tax evasion, has said his bankrupt Honolulu-based investment firm was a front for secret CIA projects, including arms sales to Taiwan and India.

He wants to document his CIA role at his upcoming trial.

The CIA wants Rewald's silence.

One example of the lengths to which the government has gone to seal Rewald's lips is the 15-page gag order imposed on him and his attorney, Honolulu public defender Michael Levine, by Federal Judge Harold M. Fong in Honolulu Dec. 11, 1984.

The gag order appears to handcuff Rewald's defense efforts, in the name of national security.

### Broad order

Known officially as a protective order, it covers everything Rewald or Levine have ever learned, seen or heard "which contains classified or classifiable information."

Rewald can't present a defense without producing the company and government documents that he says expose his involvement with the CIA. But those documents have been sealed, even for use at his trial.

The gag order prevents Rewald from publicly discussing anything he knows about the CIA.

Despite this strong language, the CIA continues to deny it had anything but a slight involvement with Rewald and his investment firm, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

The order details the government's restrictions on what Rewald and Levine can do. For example:

The only place they can discuss classified information is "in an area approved by the court security officer." Only Levine's Honolulu office has been approved; Rewald lives in Los Angeles.

Anyone Rewald or Levine wants to talk to about information they think might be classified — including reporters, former Rewald employees or clients, other potential witnesses, even the attorneys, investigators, secretaries and paralegal aides on Levine's defense team — must be fingerprinted and pass a government security check.

Rewald and Levine can't even have free access to their own notes. If they take notes about any of the classified documents the government lets them see, they only "will be allowed to view their notes within an area designated by the Court Security Officer."

There can be no conversations about classified information "over any standard commercial telephone instruments or office intercommunication systems."

All the office equipment that Levine uses — typewriters, telephones and dictation equipment, for example — had to be inspected and approved by the Justice Department.

Anything Levine has that might contain classified material must be stored in a government-approved safe. This includes such items as "notes, carbon papers, letters, photographs, memorandums, drafts, discarded drafts, typewriter ribbons, magnetic recordings, and other documents of any kind or description."

In addition to the gag order against Levine and Rewald, an August 1983 CIA affidavit presenting the agency's version of its relationship with Rewald, and a March 1, 1984 filing by CIA Director William Casey, have been ordered sealed.

For its part, the CIA has maintained the kind of silence it would like to see Rewald follow.

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